THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was agreed that a meeting of the concerned officials of the two Governments at the level of Secretary will be held at Lahore in the first week of December, 1986 to work out detailed measures in controlling terrorism as well as illicit crossing, drug trafficking and smuggling along the border.

Decision to create a regional fund at SAARC Conference

2821. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAARC at its recent summit held at Bangalore decided to create a regional fund to finance the institution to be set up under the Association; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what will be the India's contribution to this fund ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Aid to poor through Banks

2822. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the aid given to poor by Banks is inadequate as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 21st November, 1986;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide adequate aid to the poor through banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (c) Banks provide assistance to the weaker sections under various credit linked schemes. The public sector banks have been advised that their weaker section advances should constitute at least 10% of their total outstanding advances. As at the end of June, 1986, the weaker section advances of the 28 public sector banks, as a whole, constituted 10.6% of their total advances. The weaker section advances are regularly monitored by the individual banks, Reserve Bank of India and the Government. A number of schemes for the persons living below the poverty line are being implemented with a view to improve their quality of life.

Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations

2823. SHRI THANGABAALU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the guidelines followed for giving grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations in regard to various projects relating to the Ministry of Tourism;

(b) what are the names of the organisations to whom grant-in-aid has been given during the year 1985-86; and

(c) whether the sanctioned amount was fully utilised; if not, what action Government have taken against those organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) Grant-in-aid is provided by the Ministry to Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti—a registered body under the Societies Registeration Act XXI of 1860, within the stipulation laid under General Financial Rules. The Samiti constructs Yatrikas/Dharamsalas at places of religious importance. Funds to the tune of 90% of the cost of construction are released by the Ministry. The balance funds as well as land is arranged for by the Samiti through donations from the State Govts. and other charitable organisations/individuals.

(c) The Samiti has utilised Rs. 11.00 lakhs so far during the current financial year out of Rs. 15.00 lakhs released during 1985-86.

Indira Vikas Patra

2824. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Indira Vikas Patra', the small savings scheme recently introduced by Government will help concealing 'black money' and will prove

to be a handy Instrument for 'black money' transactions;

(b) whether this is another version of 'bearer bonds' but on much more attractive terms; and

(c) how does it differ from the 'bearer-bonds scheme' of 1980 or 1981?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The bearer bonds scheme was intended to mop up black money and hence provided for certain immunities and tax concessions to the holders. Indira Vikas Patra does not provide for any immunity or tax concession and is intended to provide an attractive instrument for investment especially by non income tax payers and people in rural areas. At the time of encashment of the Patra, the holder has to sign and give his name and address.

Import of clove and cassia

2825. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of clove and cassia has been now put to canalised list from O.G.L.; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what were the rates in local market prior to its putting in OGL and what were the rates after it was put under OGL;

(d) whether Government propose to assure the same price level of clove and cassia which was there prior to its recent canalisation;

(e) whether it is a fact that there are some anomalies in the policy of allocation of clove and cassia to the traders and whether Government have received any complaints from Bombay Clove Merchants' Association Ltd. in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) and (b) Import of clove/cassia was canalised through the STC w.e.f. 26-9-1986, with a view to re-regulate their imports.

(c) and (d) The market price of cloves as reported in the Economic Times ranged from Rs. 138/- to Rs. 145/- per Kg. before canalisation. The current prices ranged in November from Rs. 140/- to Rs. 175/- per Kg. The prices of cinnamon/cassia ranged from Rs. 63/- to Rs. 70/- per Kg. before canalisation. The current prices in November ranged from Rs. 61/- to Rs. 115/- per Kg. The prices of cloves/cassia will *inter alia* depend upon indigenous production and prices prevailing in the international market.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The Association has protested against canalisation of import of these items and expressed fear of rise in local prices. The Government do not subscribe to the fears expressed by the Association.

Export of jute goods

2826. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of jute goods has shown a rising trend recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information available from April upto June, 1986 indicates an increase in exports quantity-wise as compared to previous year. The comparative figures are as under :—

(Thousand tonnes)

April	—	1985-86	64.8
June	—	1986-87	68.6

Electronic link for Stock Exchanges

2827. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed the Stock Exchanges in the country to have electronic link to facilitate dissemi-